

Saving the Bay

Tucked away in the hills of Western Maryland, six inmates at Metal II in Hagerstown are working hard to make the world a healthier place from inside the prison walls. Since the Marylanders Grow Oysters program began, MCE workers at MCI-H have constructed nearly 13,000 oyster cages to do their part in oyster restoration and rejuvenating the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Cages constructed by MCE are sent to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and distributed to Maryland residents along the state's tributaries. The oyster cages are filled with spat and protect the young oysters from predators as they grow into adulthood. According to Program Coordinator Chris Judy, MCE oyster cages are currently providing shelter for approximately 2.1 million oysters.

Click [here](#) to watch a video from National Geographic explaining MCE's involvement in the oyster program.

